

## **MINUTES**

### **SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING OF THE STUART CITY COMMISSION BUDGET WORKSHOP #1**

**AUGUST 10, 2026  
AT 3:00 PM  
COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
121 SW FLAGLER AVE.  
STUART, FLORIDA 34994**

#### **CITY COMMISSION**

**Mayor Sean Reed  
Vice Mayor VACANT  
Commissioner Eula R. Clarke  
Commissioner Laura Giobbi  
Commissioner Campbell Rich**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

**City Manager, Michael Giardino  
City Attorney, Lee J. Baggett  
City Clerk, Mary R. Kindel**

#### **ROLL CALL**

3:02 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Reed, Commissioner Clarke, Commissioner Giobbi, and Commissioner Rich

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

##### **1. FY2027 BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Michael Giardino, City Manager, opened the meeting with a statement introducing the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget and Kate Ambrosini, Finance Director, who provided the presentation.

Ms. Ambrosini reviewed the City's current expenses and revenues, the ad valorem and the millage rate. Reviewed health insurance expenses with estimates at the 5 mill rate, fund and account structure overview, revenue of all funds, historical trends, expenses of all funds, staffing, and Capital Project planning.

Commissioners participated in discussions to include the millage rate, vehicle leases and fleet management, impact fees, fiscal responsibility, emission issues, health insurance

costs, stormwater management, and utility infrastructure. The following Department Directors responded to Board questions as needed:

- Pinal Gandhi-Savdas, Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Director commented on Project Lift.
- Vince Felecione, Fire Chief, responded to fleet and personnel staffing questions.
- Anthony Cooling, Budget and Procurement Manager, and the City Manager interjected with various responses and a brief explanation of the Capital Budget.
- Darren Duke, Information Technologies Director, explained that the data center and AI explosion contributed to the increase.
- Flamur Zenelovic, Chief of Police, explained that the interest expense is a ten-year contract for body cameras, tasers, and in-car camera systems for patrol cars.
- Peter Kunen, Utilities & Engineering Department Director, responded to utility infrastructure related project questions, vehicle maintenance capabilities, filter costs for PFAS, and lease property management.

#### **COMMENTS BY CITY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Giobbi

- Thanked the department heads, staff, City Manager and City Attorney.
- Additionally, thanked the community members who were in attendance.

#### **COMMENTS BY CITY MANAGER**

- Thanked the Directors and especially Anthony Cooling, Budget and Procurement Manager, and Kate Ambrosino, Finance Director, for their hard work on the budget.
- Thanked the Commission and the public for their input and questions as they challenge the City to do better.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**4:06 PM MOTION: Approve.**

**MOVED BY: Eula Clarke**

**SECONDED BY: Laura Giobbi**

**Motion approved unanimously.**

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (Non-Agenda Related) (3 Minutes Max.)**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

4:06 PM

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**Mary R. Kindel, City Clerk**

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**Sean Reed, Mayor**

**Minutes to be approved at the Regular Commission  
Meeting this 24th day of August, 2026.**